AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS: NONE

1. to 14.(Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) The bacteriophage according to claim 17, wherein said bacteriophage has at least a 15% longer half-life than a corresponding wild-type phage.

16. (Previously presented) The bacteriophage according to claim 17, wherein said phage is specific for bacterial families selected from the group consisting of Escherichia, Klebsiella, Shigella, Salmonella, Serratia, Yersinia, Enterobacter, Enterococci, Haemophilus, Mycobacteria, Neisseria, Pseudomonas, Staphylococci, Streptococci and Vibrio.

17. (Previously presented) A physico-chemically altered bacteriophage which is able to delay inactivation by an animal's host defense system, wherein said bacteriophage is PEGylated.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) A method of obtaining a physico-chemically altered bacteriophage that is able to delay inactivation by an animal's host defense system against foreign bodies, comprising the steps of:

(a) protecting tail proteins on a bacteriophage, and

(b) then binding a polymer to any unprotected proteins on said bacteriophage, wherein said polymer is polyethylene glycol (PEG).

20. to 22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a physico-chemically altered bacteriophage which is able to delay inactivation by an animal's host defense system, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said physico-chemically altered bacteriophage is PEGylated.

24. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 23, wherein said composition is an aerosol formulation for administration to an animal's lungs.

25. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 23, wherein said bacteriophage is in lyophilized form.